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United States of America  
**Office of  
Government Ethics**

4953

Office of Personnel Management  
P.O. Box 14108  
Washington, D.C. 20044

85-4324

DEC 16 1985

Honorable William J. Casey  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

DD/A REGISTRY  
FILE: 18-3

Dear Mr. Casey:


One of the statutory responsibilities of the Office of Government Ethics is providing information on and promoting understanding of ethical standards in executive agencies. As Director, I have continually stressed the need for more and better formal ethics training within the executive branch. One need only read the newspaper to realize that allegations of ethical impropriety against government officials are not uncommon occurrences.

Often a common theme in many of the allegations of misconduct is that a charged individual claims lack of understanding of the impropriety of the act, and moreover the act would not be considered improper in the private sector. While ignorance of the applicable ethics rules and regulations is no excuse, I wonder how many of these incidents would have been prevented if government officials understood the various ethical restraints imposed on them by virtue of their government service.

The laws on conflicts of interest and regulations regarding standards of conduct have evolved over a period of more than one hundred years, and are complex and often confusing. Their intent is to protect the integrity of government decision making. In order for the system to be effective, government employees must be aware of and understand these laws and regulations. In this area a little prevention goes a long way, and education and training are the key to prevention.

My staff and I are prepared to assist in educating your employees, having developed training materials and launched successful ethics training programs in several agencies. We can assist, not only in planning an employee training program, but in conducting it as well, until in-house personnel are prepared. The training may take the form of periodic, short sessions presented to groups of employees, or it can be integrated into regularly scheduled agency meetings and conferences, such as those you may hold with your regional directors. It does not have to be elaborate or time consuming. A commitment by you for resources to commence regular and even mandatory ethics training is the first step. Please have your Designated Agency Ethics Official contact my office if you would like assistance.

Sincerely,

  
David H. Martin  
Director

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
**ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA	X			
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC		X		
11	IG		X		
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
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SUSPENSE 8 Jan 86

Date

**Remarks**

To 6: Please effect direct contact as requested.  
If any response is deemed necessary, please prepare.

Executive Secretary  
20 Dec 85

Date

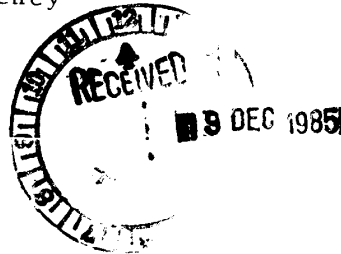
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Honorable William J. Casey  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505



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